



April 19, 2010

IVHInsights

NEWS FROM PERSONNEL SERVICES

by Dennis Mack

By the time you read this, the deadline to apply for the State Employees Retirement Incentive Plan (SERIP) will have passed. The response has been tremendous and many years of service and valuable experience will be leaving IVH. We wish nothing but happiness for the new retirees.

We have received several inquiries regarding cancelling retirement under SERIP. Even though all of the paperwork has been submitted to retire, a SERIP participant can rescind their retirement up to and including their date of termination.

Pictured above: Gov. Culver recently visited IVH to sign two pieces of legislation regarding veterans issues. Local elected officials were also in attendance.



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Commandant's Corner

After a comprehensive search and the enthusiastic response, the following names were selected for our new residences.

Amos Fox (Building 1 - 60-bed to be completed by December 2010). Mr. Fox was the first resident of the Iowa Veterans Home and was admitted on December 1, 1887. He was an honorably discharged veteran of the Civil War and died on March 27, 1916.

Kenneth E. Ulery (Building 2 - 120-bed to be completed by summer 2011). Mr. Ulery is from Marshall County and was a World War II veteran. He fought in the battle of Okinawa, and was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions in that battle. He was an active member of the Marshalltown VFW and a volunteer at the Iowa Veterans Home. He lived at the Iowa Veterans Home for approximately two years and died in 2008. Mr. Ulery's son is employed at IVH.

Dave Fleming (Building 3 - 60-beds to be completed by fall 2012). Mr. Fleming was a reservist and lived in Marshalltown. He was a tireless advocate for veterans and served as the local Chaplain for the local American Legion post, UAW 893 as veteran advisor, Iowa Veterans Council, Des Moines Amvets, and POW's. He also actively lobbied for Iowa Veterans Home. His widow is employed at IVH.

The process of recommending names for the new buildings on the Iowa Veterans Home (IVH) campus began in December 2009. A nomination process was identified and promoted through a comprehensive internal and external communication effort. There was a tremendous response with 59 nominations submitted from IVH staff and residents as well as individuals from across Iowa and Colorado.

Commandant John Mathes

Spring at IVH



Undeniable signs of spring:
The fountains at IVH are flowing again
Trees are budding
Flowers blooming
Birds returning to nest



Caring:
Our only reason for being



Heinz Hall Update by Diana Rohach, RN

Greetings from Heinz Hall! Spring has arrived and with it comes many changes.

One of Heinz Hall's biggest changes will be the upcoming retirement of Lois Keefer, NUC. Lois has worked for the Iowa Veterans Home for 38 years and is a VITAL member of the Heinz Hall team. She will be missed by all but we wish her a happy retirement.

Please join us for Lois's farewell coffee on May 26th at 1:30 in the Heinz Hall LRC.

IVH Insights is a twice-monthly publication of the Iowa Veterans Home.

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News from Continuous Improvement by Jim Elliott

This edition's news is on culture change education and the opportunities for all of us to learn more about how we can take a good organization and make it better.

On March 30 and 31, 30 IVH staff participated in education from the Eden Alternative staff entitled "Person-Centered Care and Beyond." They learned about learning circles

and staff leadership and becoming well-known and teamwork. They talked about the three plagues of long term care: loneliness, boredom and helplessness and ways to

eliminate those plagues. All this education will help us transform IVH into a better place for all who live and work here.

We will all have opportunities to learn these principles beginning in July with the new Blitz sessions. One Blitz will offer the required sessions and then CPR for those required to take it. The

other day will offer a variety of educational topics on person-centered care.

The training group includes staff from many departments and units so that many perspectives will be heard. The group includes Brett Battles, Dr. Melissa Bruhl, Denise Doepp, Stacy Duden, Kelly Fish, Mari Fogt, Sandra Frahm, Kathy Fuller, Teresa Griffith,

Terry Gruetzmacher, Kim Gummert, Deb Haskin, Deb Hill, Annie Husak, Jan Jeske, Shellee Jordebrek, Kari Kellen, Mike Luttrell, Jess Lyon, Shannon McIntire, Kelly Oetker, Stan

Overstake, Lori Reed, Marie Robertson, Steve Simpson, Vini Soukhavong, Amanda Thill, Krystle Ulch, Becky Vaughn, and Roxy West.

In addition to the Blitz education that these staff will be providing, they will also be working in their own work areas to assist with the implementation of culture change ideas.



Nursing Department Updates by Cindy Halstead

The Nursing department is actively working (along with many others) on the Plan of Correction for DIA. Nursing will be doing audits and specific follow-up with restraints, privacy/knocking on doors, use of wheelchair footrests, offering nourishments, and several other areas related to safety, cleanliness and infection control. To learn more about the details of the DIA Annual Survey please contact your supervisor.



Florence Nightingale

We will soon be celebrating National Nurses Day (May 6) and Nurses Week (May 6-12). Florence Nightingale's birthday is May 12th. Nursing has a very long and proud history. I would like to recognize all nurses, my nurse friends and colleagues here at IVH for the care they provide. Thanks!

Facilities Management *by Kathy Shannon*



The interior construction of the Fox Pavilion and the Ulery Building are proceeding well. The contractors completed a mock up of the floor and tile of the resident restroom (photo at upper left) for inspection. All who were in attendance agreed that it looked great! The tunnel break through in the Malloy building was conducted. The tunnel excavation is planned to continue through the next two weeks.

The Dock Dayroom Expansion project will begin in earnest on April 19, 2010. The south sliding doors (center photo above) will not be accessible for several months. The contractors will begin to fence the exterior and place a temporary wall in the exterior to restrict use of this area at that time. To add to the construction mix, the elevator project in the Dock and Malloy buildings will begin on May 10, 2010.

The Maintenance staff (photo at upper right) has been awarded the AFSCME Special Recognition of Local 2984 for Special Efforts during Winter Storm of 2009. Congratulations to those who put in many extra hours keeping the IVH roads and sidewalks clear during a very trying winter!



*"For man, as for flower and
beast and **bird**, the supreme
triumph is to be most vividly,
most perfectly alive."*

~ D.H. Lawrence

Technology Department *by Pat Williams*

The Information Technology department has been very involved in the Purchase Order Kaizen group and their efforts to develop a paperless process for Requests for Purchases here at the Iowa Veterans Home. Over the last month, the Kaizen group has been meeting and testing the new on-line purchase order application.

We are pleased to announce that certain areas have now gone "live" with the process. Currently placing purchase orders using the new on-line system are Food Services, Print Shop,

Maintenance, Information Technology, and Safety.

Over the next few months other areas will be trained and will start using the new system. Everyone who has been involved in the test phase and now the "live" process are pleased with the end results and excited to be able to implement the new process.

Due to the hard work of the Kaizen group, the project began three weeks ahead of schedule.

RESIDENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

by Randy Inhelder

Many of you know that the IVH Resident Council just held an election to fill their Executive Board positions. They have an election every two years and any resident is eligible to run for office, as long as that resident is "capable and willing to run for office and is willing and able to accept the responsibilities if elected."

The election cycle starts in February of all even years, when the Executive Board appoints an Election Committee to oversee the election process. In March, the nominees are presented to the resident council at their monthly meeting; all residents also have the opportunity at that meeting to either nominate themselves or another resident to run for office.

Just this week, the new Board was installed; Rich Copeland was elected as President, Jacob Knapp as 1st Vice President, Henry Williams as 2nd Vice President, and Eleanor Twisleton as Secretary-Treasurer.

Many people are involved in the election in order to make it run smoothly, including the election committee, the candidates, the poll watchers, the group who tallies the results, and the residents who take the time to vote. This year, there were 15 people who helped watch the polls, four who helped tally the results, eight candidates, and three residents on the election committee. A huge thank you to all who helped; the Executive Board is critically important and serves as a voice for all IVH residents!



IVH Website Calendar

Submit your event information on the IVH website calendar. It's quick and easy and the calendar is available to staff, residents, and the community. Log on to www.iowaveteranshome.org and click on "Calendar" to begin.

Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
	April 18-24		National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week	
Fri	4/23	9am-3:30pm	Paid Nutritional Assistant Class	Whitehill Aud.
Mon	4/26	9 and 10 am	Legislative Town Hall meeting CANCELLED	

Announcements

On Monday, April 19, IVH will be hosting its annual Volunteer Awards Banquet in the Malloy LRC. In order to accommodate our guests, the parking lot directly behind the cottages will be closed to day shift parking. We will re-open the lot once this activity is complete. Thank you for your patience. Stan Freeborn, Adjutant.

I would like to thank everyone who touched my life following the loss of my father. I appreciate all the prayers, memorial gifts, cards, visits and kind words. I also send a big thanks to all my co-workers who stepped up to help cover during my absence. Your expressions of sympathy have been comforting and healing. I am very blessed to work with such a great group of people. Sincerely, Robby Corum

Just a reminder of the upcoming dates of importance in the Dack dayroom project:

By **April 19th** the main entrance to Dack will close for approximately a year.

Around **May 10th**, each Dack floor will lose their dayroom for one day when they enclose the outside of the dayrooms to make it safe for us to still use them for awhile.

Around **July 1st**, the Dack dayrooms will go off line until at least next April.

Around **July 1st**, the private rooms next to the Dack elevators will also go off line.

Budget Update *by Greg Wright*

The Iowa legislature recently completed their budget work and the Governor has signed the appropriation bill for fiscal year 2011. The appropriation for the Iowa Veterans Home for fiscal year 2011 will be \$9,630,846. Once saying that, we are not yet certain how much our overall budget will be reduced by the staff participating in the State Employee Retirement Incentive Program (SERIP). We will only be able to fill up to 50% of the dollars budgeted for the vacated SERIP positions. The Iowa Veterans Home Board/Budget Committee submitted our plan last week to the Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) identifying which positions will be refilled and we will need to hold on posting those positions until we receive approval from DAS.

The legislature did not appropriate any funds for salary adjustment (approximately \$2 million) which pays for the cost-of-living increases, step increases, or health insurance increases.

The legislature also changed our standing unlimited carry forward language, so that at the end of fiscal year 2010, IVH will carry forward the first \$500,000 into our fiscal year 2011 budget. Then, we are required to transfer up to the next million to Department of Human Services for field operations. If there is any remaining balance, IVH can use that for operating expenses.